

REMARKS

Claim 21 has been canceled without prejudice, leaving Claims 14-20 and 22-27 in this Application.

Claims 14 and 24 have been amended to now particularly clarify that the carry bag of the invention is of a diameter to enclose a rolled yoga mat -- and is of such dimension whether the rolled yoga mat is rolled with or without any encircling band in holding the mat furled. The Examiner's interpretation as to this in the Final Rejection -- namely, that the carry bag has a diameter capable of enclosing the yoga mat when rolled, is correct. The amendments to Claims 14 and 24 are intended solely for making this definition perfectly clear.

Claims 14-20 and 22-27 were rejected either under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of various combinations of the following publications:

1. [YogaSite.com](http://www.yogasite.com):Yoga Props & Accessories - Silk Yoga Mat Bag;
2. [Nefitco.com](http://www.nefitco.com):Exervo Tote Bag (2003); and
3. [Nefitco.com](http://www.nefitco.com):Exervo Tote Bag (2004).

The notice of references cited set forth the publication dates of these references as December 16, 2003, December 2, 2003 and February 5, 2004, respectively.

The filing date of this Application, on the other hand, is February 5, 2004.

Annexed is a Declaration Under Rule 131 by Applicant along with Exhibits which show a completion of the invention in the United States before the date of any of these three printed publications. At the same time, as the Declaration points out, none of the dates of the printed publications are more than one year prior to Applicant's February 5, 2004 filing date. The Declaration specifically sets out facts to establish reduction to practice of the claimed invention prior to the effective date of the publications.

In view of this, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited publications, either alone or in combination, should bar the grant of a Patent to the inventor in accordance with Rule 131.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Final Rejection is, therefore, respectfully requested.

It is noted that these publications were not cited until the Final Rejection. If, for some reason, the Examiner is of the opinion that this Application is still not yet in condition for Allowance, it is respectfully requested that such Final Rejection as issued be withdrawn, and a new Final Rejection issue. If the Examiner is still of the opinion that the Application is not allowable, and is of the opinion that no Final Rejection or other action should be forthcoming, then it is respectfully requested that this Amendment and its attachments be entered for purposes of Appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

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